

The American Monthly Magazine and Critical Review.
Vol. 1, for 1817; containing several original papers by the
late Prof. Rafinesque. From the same, in exchange.

Description of Shells from the Province of Tavoy in British
Burmah: and Descriptions and Notices of some of the
Land Shells of Cuba. By Aug. A. Gould, M. D. From
the Author.

Letters were read from Prof. James Hall, dated Albany,
N. Y., August 29, 1844, and from Mr. Wm. S. Sullivant, of
Columbus, Ohio, severally acknowledging the reception of
their notices of election as Correspondents of the Academy.

Stated Meeting, September 17, 1844.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Fine specimens of Fibrous Sulphate of Lime, from the Mam-
moth Cave, Kentucky, and native Sulphate of Magnesia,
from the same. Also, Quartz Crystals of large size, from
Little Falls. Presented by Mr. Samuel Ashmead.

Selenite, from the interior of the Pyramid of Cheops; and a
portion of effloresced salt from the surface of the Desert of
Mount Sinai. Presented by Professor Durbin, of Carlisle,
Pennsylvania.

Specimens of the Rocks from the summit, and of those from
the notch of the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and
from the summit of North Mountain, in Camptown, New
Hampshire. From Professor Johnson.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

An Address on the recent progress of Geological research in
the United States; delivered at the 5th Annual meeting
of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists,
held at Washington City, May, 1844. By Henry D.
Rogers. Philadelphia, 1844. From the Author.

Report of the Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of

the Navy to examine the several plans of floating docks submitted to the Department. From Prof. Johnson.

Boston Journal of Natural History. Vol. 4. No. 4. From the Boston Society of Natural History.

A letter was read from Mr. Haldeman, dated August 19, 1844, accompanying a series of letters addressed by the late Mr. Say to the late Rev. J. F. Melsheimer, and presented to the Academy by his brother, Dr. F. E. Melsheimer. Also a paper by the latter, containing additional descriptions of N. American Coleoptera; which, on motion, was referred to the committee appointed on his former paper, read August 6th last.

Professor Johnson then offered some remarks on the specimens of rocks presented by him this evening.

Those from the summit of Mount Washington are quartz, coarse granite, and tourmaline, with quartz filling its fissures, and plates of mica adhering to its crystals. Those from the northwestern slope of the same mountain are hornblende, and tabular masses of a micaceous rock, in which the folia are laid in narrow bands obliquely inclined to each other. All these materials are very durable in their nature, and suffer little from mere atmospheric influence. In strong contrast with these are many of the rocks found at the White mountain *notch*. The latter are generally more or less friable in their nature, and liable to pretty rapid detrition. They consist of beds of gneis, intermixed with others of a granitoid character, having the aspect and constituents of granite, but the looseness and friability of gneis which has been long exposed to the weather. The hardest specimens obtained from that part of the notch which contains the celebrated Willey house, are mixtures of quartz and serpentine.

A portion of the masses having a granitic aspect has since the catastrophe which happened to the Willey family about 18 years ago, become completely disintegrated, and fallen into small granules.

The event just alluded to seems to furnish, to a considerable ex-

tent at least, a solution of the present aspect, if not of the very existence of this notch. The numerous and extensive scars which the mountain still bears, derived from that occurrence, with others obviously produced by similar means, but of a more ancient date, and not in the notch only, but also in the numerous recesses all along this mountain chain, point significantly to the causes which, through innumerable ages, have been operating upon the gradual degradation of the softer portions of these elevated regions. The notch is stated to be, at its highest part, about 2000 feet above the level of tide water. For the first few miles the descent is very rapid, and the head of the Saco is truly a mountain torrent. This steep acclivity favors the rapid action of water in washing down the looser portions of the rock formation—aided as it is by the alternate wetting and drying of the rocks.

The Chairman announced to the Society the decease, on the 5th September last, of Miss Anna Maclure, at the residence of her brother Alexander Maclure, Esq., at New Harmony, Indiana. The zeal with which this lady, in common with her brother, has ever promoted the objects and interests of this Institution, will indissolubly connect her name with its past and future history, as one of its earnest friends and liberal benefactors.

On motion of Professor Johnson, the letters of the late Rev. Mr. Melsheimer, presented to the Academy this evening, were referred to the Library Committee, with directions to have them bound and placed in the Library.

Meeting for Business, September 24, 1844.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

After some preparatory business, the Society went into an election for members and correspondents, with the following result :

MEMBER.

John Frost, L. L. D., of Philadelphia.

CORRESPONDENT.

Lewis R. Gibbes, M. D., of Charleston, South Carolina.